Miss S. Shaw.

Boston, April 22d. 1856.

Dear Miss Carpenter;

Rev. Mr. Waterston has kindly offered to be the bearer to you of a parcel, — and thinking you may not have seen Rev. J. F. Clarke's little volume, "The Christian Doctrine of Prayer", I have much pleasure in sending it to you by him, in the hope that you will oblige me by accepting it. I have rejoiced much in hearing, from time to time, of your improving health. I hope you have become quite restored, and that you are able to engage again in most of those pursuits and duties, which have been so near to your heart. It will be pleasant

to you, I am sure, to see Mr. Waterston once more, as it will be to him to meet you again. — I suppose that very few go through so long and severe an illness as yours was, and become restored again to health. May your days be long and happy, — I am sure they will be full of usefulness. — For ourselves, we are still contending with the mighty powers leagued in the support of Slavery. It is as great a marvel to me, as it was at first, how and why men and women of prominent and 'reputable' position, church members professing to be renewed by the Spirit of God, ministers

claiming to be set for the defence of the Gospel, - all suffer themselves to be more or less committed to the justification (or at least excuse) of a system of such bare-faced wrong, such cruel oppression, such unbridled lust and villainy, as American Slavery pre-eminently is. I fear that the most unbounded charity cannot deny that it is the power of money, and the love of money, in the last resort, which moves the whole. Northern Merchants, Northern Manufacturers, Northern Mechanics, make 'good livings' & often large fortunes out of Southern trade, - especially in Cotton and tobacco, and in the supply to the South of the innumerable articles

(as has been said, from a Steam-Engine to a threepenny nail,) which the North furnishes. The women are easily reconciled to a system of things which supplies them with comforts and sometimes luxuries; most of them take care not to get in the way of learning, or rather hearing much of the Atrocities of Slavery; and as their Church and their Minister, & the distinguished Rev. Dr. So and So, of the neighbouring City, all say that Slavery is not sinful, that it has always been permitted by God for the best of wise purposes, and that the Abolitionists are Seditious Men, Infidels, and Enemies of the Church of Christ, their consciences, new tho sensitive, are soon lulled to sleep. God help us! What a heavy work remains to do! But it does advance. Let us be glad & give thanks!

With affectionate regard, Yours
Samuel May Jr.

MSS. B. 1.6 v.6 p.30